

Art Unit: 2632

CLMPTO

02/08/02

1. A method for managing the transition between a ring event and a span event in a telecommunications network with a ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as bytes frames are transmitted, said ring network comprising

nodes or network elements; and

spans of optical fibers, said optical fiber spans connecting the network elements to form working channels and protection channels,

the method comprising the step, performed by the nodes adjacent to the ring failure, of sending suitable ring failure signalings and wherein it further comprises the steps of

verifying that the protection channels have been restored;

in the case where the verification is positive, maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time; and

once such predetermined time has elapsed, managing the event as a span event.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time comprises the step, performed by the node adjacent to the event that sees the event on the working channel, of activating a timer inside it.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of managing the event as a span event is started not before the expiration of said timer.

4. A network element capable of managing the transition between a ring event and a span event in a telecommunications network with a ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as bytes frames are transmitted, said ring network comprising:

nodes or network elements; and

spans of optical fibers, said optical fiber spans connecting the network elements

to form a ring and comprising working channels and protection channels,

the network element comprising means for generating and sending suitable ring failure signalings and wherein it further comprises:

means for verifying that the protection channels have been restored;

means for maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time in the case where the verification is positive; and

means for managing the event as a span event once such predetermined time has elapsed.

5. The network element according to claim 4, wherein said means for maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time comprise a timer inside the network element.

6. (Amended) A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to carry out all the steps of the method according to claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

7. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer-readable medium comprising program code means adapted to carry out all the steps of the method according to claim 1 when said program is run in a computer.